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R E P L Y

TO THE

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS and OTHERS,

UPON THE

C O N D I T I O N

H. Eyre (T.)

O F

D U B L I N B A R R A C K S.

by Tho. Eyre -



D U B L I N :

Printed in the YEAR MDCCCLX.

A
 REPORT
 TO THE
 SELECT COMMITTEE
 OF THE
 COMMISSIONERS AND OTHERS
 UPON THE
 CONDITION
 OF
 DUBLIN BARACKS.



DUBLIN
 Printed in the Year MDCCCX

*A REPLY to the REPORT of
the COMMISSIONERS and Others, upon
the Condition of Dublin BARRACKS.*

BEFORE I give my direct Answers to the particular Articles of a Report, lately made by the Commissioners of the Barracks to His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, on the State and Condition of the new Buildings and Repairs lately performed to *Dublin Barracks*; I think myself under the Necessity of Animadverting, tho' in the gentlest Manner possible, on the very uncommon and unfair Behaviour, with which I have been treated on that Occasion.

It now is, and ever hath been, the honest and ordinary Custom in this Kingdom, and thro' *England*, where it may be required to inspect the Works of others, in the Way of Check and Control, or in order to a due Estimate and Valuation of the same, to give Notice of such intended Inspection to the Undertakers, or Persons who have executed the said Works; that they themselves may attend with a Surveyor or Measurer on their Behalf, that they may have an Opportunity to shew, and specify the Particulars of the several Repairs, Additions, and Alterations that were made, to ascertain and remark upon the Quantity or Quality of the Works, to answer all occasional Questions, either in Respect to the original Defects in an old Building, or to the Propriety or Degree of Repair that such Building would admit, or to the Nature of the Materials and Manner of Execution, or to remon-

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strate on any Error or Mistake that such Inspectors might lye under.

The Omission therefore of this ordinary Piece of Justice to me and my Tradesmen, which is the Right of, and never fails to be granted to the most inconsiderable Undertaker, and without which no fair or due Report can be made, must be confest to carry a singular and suspicious Aspect: And as such Notice could not be neglected without Knowledge, it can hardly be supposed to have been neglected without Design.

The Reports that were produced from this Method of Proceeding, are also conformable in all Respects thereto; such an evident and universal Inclination for Fault-finding, such a general Dislike, and endeavour to censure, where no particular Defect is pointed out, such Want of Knowledge in ascribing particular Defects to Matters that bear no Relation in Nature or Workmanship to the Faults that are found, and such further Inconsistancies and palpable Contradictions, between the two Reports that were designed, and produced to corroborate one another: These Circumstances, I say, which shall all be made fully to appear, amount to an incontestable Demonstration that the said Reports were by no Means contrived to favour, however they might be calculated to injure or disgrace.

It is further very observable, that most of the Gentlemen who signed the Report of the Commissioners, gave little or no Attendance at the Time that the said Survey or Inspection was made, and that *Robert Mack* and *George Stewart*, two of those *most experienced Master Builders*, as the Commissioners are generously pleased to stile them, and on whose Report and Affidavit the said Commissioners expressly and principally depend, for the most exact and particular Information, were Persons from whom a candid and impartial Representation was not to be expected on this Occasion on many Accounts, but particularly as they were People who had at several Times applyed to me to
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be employed in His Majesty's Works, but were always rejected for just and sufficient Reasons.

Again, it is no less remarkable that the third Person, named *John Sproule*, who had been joined in the said Deputation with the former two, and who could alone be supposed capable of an unbiaſt Candour on this Occaſion, peremptorily refused to ſign or join in their Report, not for the Reason imagined or ſuggeſted by the Commiſſioners, but in as much as he look'd upon the ſame to be partial, and not ſquaring with his Obſervations and Judgment on the Building, as he has frequently declared when queſtioned on that Head.

A Man of a Character juſtly irreproachable, is deſirous of having his Actions and Conduct inquired into, neither is he alarmed at a Miſrepresentation, when he has the Power or Opportunity of an Appeal.

It is certain, that a Work ordered to be executed within a limited Time, and with all poſſible Diſpatch, as alſo of a very extenſive and complex Nature, could not be carried on and finiſh'd with the ſame minute Exaſtneſs in all Parts, that a more leiſurely and ſimple Performance would have admitted, and conſequently required a proportionable Conſideration and Indulgence in the Survey; but the Attention that I ever had to His Majesty's Service, to the Duties of my own Office, and to my Character, eſpecially where it related to a Commiſſion that I know to be queſtionable, render it utterly impoſſible for me to be guilty or defective, in any material Article of my Buſineſs: The moſt cautious may ſometimes commit Overſights, from which I do not pretend to be exempt, and am ready to answer for ſuch as ſhall appear to be juſtly chargeable to my Account, upon a fair, candid, open Inſpection of ſaid Work, by unprejudiced and ſkilful People.

REPORT

REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS.

ARTICLE I.

THAT the Stone Cutters Work is improperly executed, not having a sufficient Bond.

ANSWER.

HERE the Impropriety of the Execution is universally applied to all the Stone Cutter's Work, without Exception, and the only Reason assigned for such an Impropriety, is the Want of a sufficient Bond: And yet, any skilful Builder can tell us that a very great Part of said Stone Cutter's Work, can want no Kind of Bond whatever; such as the intire flagging in the Galleries and private Rooms, for as this is all superficial Work, it refutes so much of the Charge by the very Reason which was offered to support it, and therefore invalidates that Credit that might otherwise be expected for Knowledge or Candour in the Remainder of the Charge. Again, another considerable Part of the said Stone Cutter's Work consists of Eves Cornice, which consequently must carry and contain a sufficient Bond or Tailing within itself, for otherwise it could not possibly counterbalance its own Projection, together with the Weight of the Extremities of the Roof, but must fall to the Ground, as it depends on its own Bond or Tailing alone, and derives no Confirmation from Parapet Wall, or Blocking Course to bind it to its Place.

It is further to be observed that the *two most experienced Master Builders*, have in their Report upon this very Article of the Cornice, represented as a Defect that it ~~has~~ no Drip to the Top Bed; but the Ignorance of those People in ascribing a Defect to a Part that bears no Relation to it, must be obvious to every Person who sees and considers that the Roof extends over
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the whole Bed, to the Extremity of the Cornice; in that Place, therefore, a Drip would be both useless and absurd.

Wherefore as the said Charge in such material Articles is evidently void of Knowledge or Candour, or both, I presume that the whole of the Objection contained in the first Article will be found equally groundless, upon a just and impartial Survey.

ARTICLE II.

THAT the front Walls of the Royal Square were originally too slightly constructed, and from their present warped State are probably insufficient to bear the great additional Weight laid on them by the late Repair.

A N S W E R.

HERE the Report is just in observing that the Walls were originally too slightly constructed, and it might have been equally candid in observing that the same Walls had also been originally warped, which is universally known to have been the Case; but the Word, *present*, on the Contrary, would here most unfairly imply, that such warping was occasioned by the present additional Weight, and a Probability is introduced therefrom, (for Want of better Proof,) that they were unable to sustain it: When Buildings are newly built and green, they are in their warping State, and are then apt to yield to any Pressure, but as the Materials grow dry, the Wall daily grows more firm and connected, and tho' I was sensible of the Slightness of the original Construction of the Walls in Question, yet I judged upon Examination that they were able to bear a much greater Weight than is at present imposed on them; and my Conduct in this is justified by the subjoined Opinions of a Number of reputable Tradesmen, who have carefully viewed them; every one of whom is intitled to equal
Credit,

Credit, at least, with the two *most experienced Master Builders*, and who testify that the Walls have not yielded or given Way to any additional Weight laid on them in the late Repair, that the Defects now apparent in them are original ones, that they are rendered and become from said Repair as firm and durable as ever they were, and are likely to continue so.

Thus persuaded, had I put the Government to the Charge of new building those Walls, these very Gentlemen, with much more Justice, might have accused me of having a dishonest Intention to encrease the Advantages of my own Office at the Expence of the Public.

REPORT of the BRICKLAYERS.

WE the Bricklayers nominated by *Thomas Eyre, Esq;* Engineer and Surveyor General, to view and inspect into the Re-building and Repairing of the Barracks of *Dublin*, and to furnish him with our Opinion thereof, have carefully examined the Premisses, and our Judgments thereon have come to the following Resolutions.

That the Mason and Bricklayers Work of the New Building, or Officers Apartments, is strongly built of durable Materials, and a sufficient Quantity of Mortar.

That the Repairs of the old Barracks so far as relates to the Walls are well executed, and that the said Repairs has not caused the least visible Defect in said Walls; what Defects there is in said Walls were original ones, and We believe that the said Barracks repaired, are as safe and tenantable as they ever were and are likely to continue so.

Signed January 30th, 1760,

James Moris

Hugh Mcc Daniell

Ben. Pemberton

John Wilson

John Reid

REPORT

REPORT of the STONE CUTTERS.

AT the Request of *Thomas Eyre, Esq;* Engineer and Surveyor General, We have examined the Walls of the Barracks of *Dublin*, so far as the late Repairs have been carried on, and are of Opinion, that they have not bulged or given Way by any additional Weight laid on them by the late Repair; and that the Irregularity and Defects that appear at present in the Walls are original ones, long before the present Repair commenced, and do believe that the Building (from said Repairs) is as firm and durable as ever it was.

Dublin, 8th February 1760.

*Henry Darley
George Rothery
James Rothery*

REPORT of the CARPENTERS.

WE the Carpenters nominated by *Thomas Eyre, Esq;* Engineer and Surveyor General, to view the Walls of the Repaired Part of *Dublin* Barracks, have viewed the same, and are of Opinion, that the Walls have not given Way by any additional Weight laid upon them in the late Repair, and that the Irregularity and Defects that appear at present in the Walls were original ones, and that the Building is firm and durable, and likely to continue so.

February 8th, 1760.

*Hugh Wilson
Matt. Sleater
Leonard Buckley
William Goodwin
Phill. Gilliard*

ARTICLE III.

THAT the Timbers on the Roof of the West Wing of the Horse Barrack lately rebuilt, are of the Scantling ordinarily used in private Houses, and not sufficient to ensure that Permanency required in all Public Buildings.

ANSWER.

IF any of the Gentlemen who have signed this Report, was ever concerned, or employed in public Buildings; I appeal to him, whether he has been more solicitous in providing and selecting a better and more durable Kind of Materials for the Public, than any private Gentleman would be for himself and his own Posterity? These Gentlemen talk here of a *Permanency* that is required in all public Buildings; if they intend by this *Permanency* any Matter of Novelty, something newly required, and by themselves alone, it would have been kind in them to have communicated the Rules and Orders which they propose to lay down for the Purpose, with the Species of suitable Materials and Scantlings; but if they intend by this *Permanency* so requisite in all public Buildings, a Matter that hath heretofore been required in such Buildings, let us know where this extraordinary *Permanency* is to be found: There is no need to travel very far for this Purpose; *the several public Buildings about the Castle; the Stables at the Back of Dublin Barracks, &c. &c.* in Country as well as City, will afford Comparisons enough for Observation.

If a Person in any Office or Trust whatever, acts with the same Integrity, Caution and Concern, that he would for himself on a like Occasion, the Public will acquit him; however these Gentlemen may condemn him, for his Want of a Portion of their own Zeal or Knowledge.

But

But lastly, if the Commissioners intended to sound this Article of their Report on the Inspection and good Skill of their *most experienced Master Builders*, it is very unwary in them to depreciate and debase the Character, which they themselves had made so eminent, by contradicting Point Blank, what the said Master Builders had from their allowed Knowledge and Skill averred on the same Article: For the said *Builders*, in their Report of this Part of the Work, either truly, or unfortunately, or unwittingly allow the Timber to be good, and the Scantling sufficient. But should two Reports, like two Witnesses, be produced in public Court to give corresponding Testimony on the same Side of a Question, if these Witnesses give in Evidence a Matter palpably and directly contradictory to each other, both of them cannot be credited; and if the Veracity of both is not hereby rendered doubtful, the Question still remains, which of them is to be believed? Should any Presumption incline the Court to give Credit to the one in Preference to the other, the Testimony of that other is utterly invalidated; and, in what Instance can that Party be believed, who hath been convicted of Falshood in any?

ARTICLE IV.

THAT little or no new Timber hath been used in other Parts of the Roofing, though the old Materials were insufficient.

A N S W E R.

HERE, if I can apprehend any Meaning particularly intended to be applyed to the general Term *insufficient*, it is this, that the Quantity of the old Materials, formerly contained in the respective Roofs appointed to be repaired, was insufficient for a thorough Repair of the same, and if the Report meaneth so, it

is unquestionably true, for the said Roofs in Fact were not repaired with new Timber, but with Timber vastly preferable, good old *Irisb* Oak, staunch, tried and seasoned, and taken from the Roof of the West Wing of the Horse Barrack, when pulled down in Order to be rebuilt; and I thought I had reason to hope that I should not be reproached for applying to the Use of the Public, what hath often been deemed, and disposed of by others, as a Perquisite of Office.

ARTICLE V.

THAT the new Cieling Joists which should have been framed in their Girders, even in private Buildings, are here supported only by small Slips nailed to the Girders, and that the Cieling Joists of all the rest of the Building lately repaired are insufficient.

A N S W E R.

THE Dispatch that was urged by Government on this Occasion, and the Necessity of preparing this Building with all possible Expedition, for the Reception of His Majesty's Forces before the Winter, did not afford Leisure for that Accuracy of Operation, or Method which would have suited an Opportunity of longer Time and Attention: It is admitted, that the framing of Cieling Joists into their Girders, hath a more finished and methodical Appearance of Workmanship than the supporting them by Fillets nailed to the Girders; and would be so finished by a Cabinet Maker: But all Builders of Experience and Knowledge use Slips spiked on for Strength and Solidity; in-as-much as the numerous Mortices that are requisite in the first Method, must prove a great weakening of the Girders, on which the whole framing depends; it is therefore conceived, that the latter Method is equally strong and much more expeditious, and it will unquestionably be found upon Trial, that more than
three

three Fourths of the Cielings of all the private Buildings in this City, consist of Cieling-joists supported in this Manner.

IN regard to all the Cieling-joists of all the Rest of the Building repaired, it must be observed, that they are of Oak, and considerably warped, which that Timber is extremely subject to; that Appearance therefore, (upon a transient View) may have been mistaken for a real Insufficiency, and must be the Case at present, as the Timber is as sound and durable as ever. The Joists have been strengthened in their bearing, where necessary, and the damaged or broken ones removed, and replaced by others that were sufficient, which last is all that was proposed to be done in this Article, and for which the Sum of forty five Pounds ten Shillings, only, was provided in the Estimate.

ARTICLE VI.

THAT the Doors and Work about them are too slightly constructed, and the Sashing and Glazing but indifferent.

A N S W E R.

HERE again the Commissioners contradict, disavow and overthrow the whole Credit and Character of *their most experienced Master Builders*, on which they have so expressly acknowledged their Dependance. The People in Deputation allow and have sworn to their Report, that all the Sash and Glass was good without Exception, and that many of the Doors and Works about them were sufficient: How then doth this agree with the Implication of a general Insufficiency, which seems intended by this Article: I confess myself not to be Casuist good enough to reconcile those contradictory and jarring Reports; but beg leave to refer to the Observations made on similar Inconsistencies in the third Article; and which may be applied in Point here.

ARTICLE VII.

THAT Racks for Arms and Accoutrements, and Hanging Shelves for Provisions are wanting throughout, and ought to be immediately provided, to prevent the private Men from striking in Hooks and Pegs, to the great Damage of the Partitions.

A N S W E R.

THE Particulars said to be omitted in this Article, are usually considered as Parts of Barrack-Furniture, for which no Provision is made in the Estimate for Buildings or Repairs.

ARTICLE VIII.

THAT the Slating is well done, in a workman-like Manner.

A N S W E R.

My most respectful Acknowledgements are due for the *extraordinary* Justice, which hath been rendered to me on this Article.

ARTICLE IX.

AND in Order to lay before Your GRACE the State of the Barracks of *Dublin*, in the most exact and particular Manner, We called to our Assistance Three of *the most experienced Master-Builders* of this City, Two of whom have signed and sworn to a Report, which is hereunto annexed, and which we humbly beg leave to refer to Your GRACE. The Reason the third Workman gave, for not signing the Report, was, that although he acknowledged his Agreement to that Part of it, relative to the Carpenters Work, yet, as he did not think himself a Judge of

of Stone-Cutters Work, he did not chuse to sign the Whole.

A N S W E R.

WITH Respect to the two Assistants, *Stewart* and *Mack*, and independant of that Resentment or Prejudice, which is common for such Persons to entertain against those by whom they have been disappointed or disoblged; and independant of any particular Influence, by which they may be swayed; it may not be impertinent to observe, that notwithstanding the respectable Epithet of *most experienced Master-Builders*, with which they are honoured, and which includes a general and thorough Knowledge in all Parts of Building; *Stewart* happens to be but a mere Carpenter, who had been employed in His Majesty's Works, under the Surveyor General Mr. Dobbs, and was discharged from thence by the late Surveyor General for fraudulent Practice, the Vouchers whereof are ready to be produced; and *Mack*, no more, nor better, than an obscure Journey-man Stone-Cutter, who had been dismissed from His Majesty's Works, in *Scotland*, for Misbehaviour. How comes it then to pass, that the Testimony or Judgment of those People should be received in Branches of Business different from what they profess, or can they be considered as proper Persons to be employed in controuling the Works of an Office, from which They were shamefully rejected or dismiss. But notwithstanding that the Skill and Veracity of *these two most experienced Master-Builders* is rendered very doubtful, by the several foregoing Observations, it may, perhaps, be expected that Something further should be said in answer to those particular Defects that are pointed out in their Report, and which have been taken no Notice of in the former Part of this Work.

Here I should own myself to be under a Difficulty, had I no other Resource then opposing my own Judgment

Judgment to that of those said two most *experienced Builders*, as it might become questionable by being brought into any Degree of Comparison with theirs, but having in an humble Sense of my own Skill, as well as of that of my *Commentators*, called upon and required a Number of Tradesmen of as approved Credit and Knowledge as any in *Dublin*, in their respective Branches of Building, to examine the Condition of *Dublin Barracks*, and of the Works lately performed there, I might appeal to their Reports, in which the several Works are acknowledged to be well and sufficiently executed in general, with some few Exceptions only to trivial and insignificant Omissions, which can easily be repaired effectually, and at an inconsiderable Expence, to the Truth whereof they are ready to appear and to be examined, as they are not pinned down by Affidavit; which from the Credit and Circumstances of the Men, being under no Influence, or having any Connection or Intercourse with my Office, might be received as conclusive and satisfactory by the Public; but as I am very far from wishing that my Conduct or the Works of my Undertakers should be screened from any merited Censure, let there be a Re-inspection of this Business by Persons of unexceptionable Skill and Character; I do not fear an Enquiry, when legally and fairly performed, being conscious that I may expect Approbation, but can apprehend no Reproof from such a Test.—— I shall chearfully abide by the Determination of such a Survey, and will enforce and engage for the Execution, and making good whatever such Inspectors shall report to be deficient or amiss; having taken previous Care to reserve ample Security to the Public for that Purpose, from the Undertakers, who are of themselves ready and willing to comply with all that Candour and Justice can require at their Hands.

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Thomas Eyre,

